Met Office 3-month Outlook

Period: August – October 2017 Issue date: 20.07.17

The forecast presented here is for August and the average of the August-September-October period for the United Kingdom as a whole. The forecast for August will be superseded by the long-range information on the public weather forecast web page (www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/forecast/#?tab=regionalForecast), starting from 1 August 2017.

This forecast is based on information from observations, several numerical forecast systems and expert judgement.

SUMMARY – PRECIPITATION:

For August the chances of above- and below-average precipitation are well balanced. For August-September-October below-average precipitation is slightly more probable than above-average.

The probability that UK precipitation for August-September-October will fall into the driest of our five categories is between 20 and 25% and the probability that it will fall into the wettest of our five categories is around 20% (the 1981-2010 probability for each of these categories is 20%).

CONTEXT:

For August and August-September-October the Met Office long-range prediction system, along with systems from other centres around the world, only weakly favours higher-than-average pressure patterns. This means that the chances of wetter- and drier-than-average precipitation are close to equal. In August-September-October there is a small increase in the chance of drier-than-average conditions as a result of the slight anticyclonic tendency. The balanced outlook can be seen in the graphs in figure P2 which show that this year's spread of probability (hatched) deviates only a little from that expected based on past climate (in black). Nevertheless, this still means that the large rainfall deficits that have accrued in some parts of the country since last autumn may well persist into the autumn of this year.

Fig P1

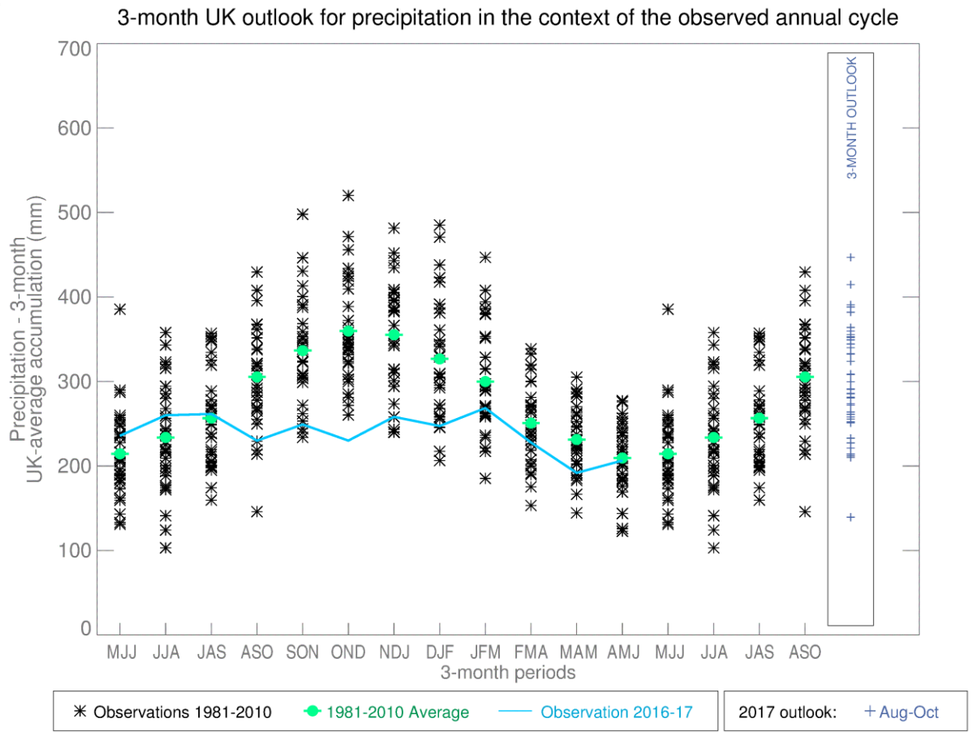


Fig P2

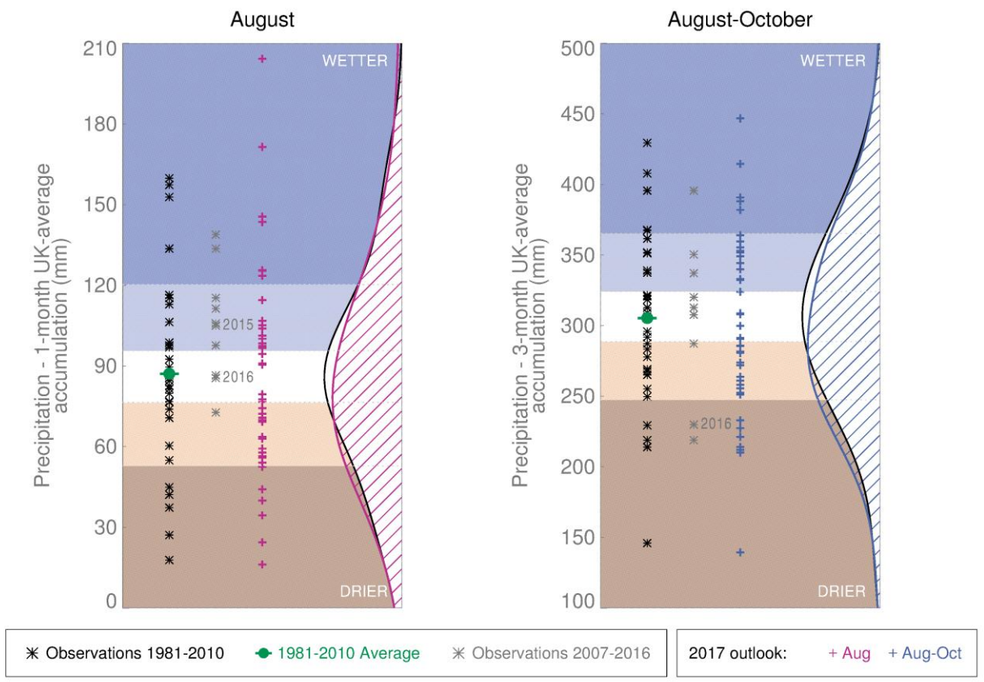
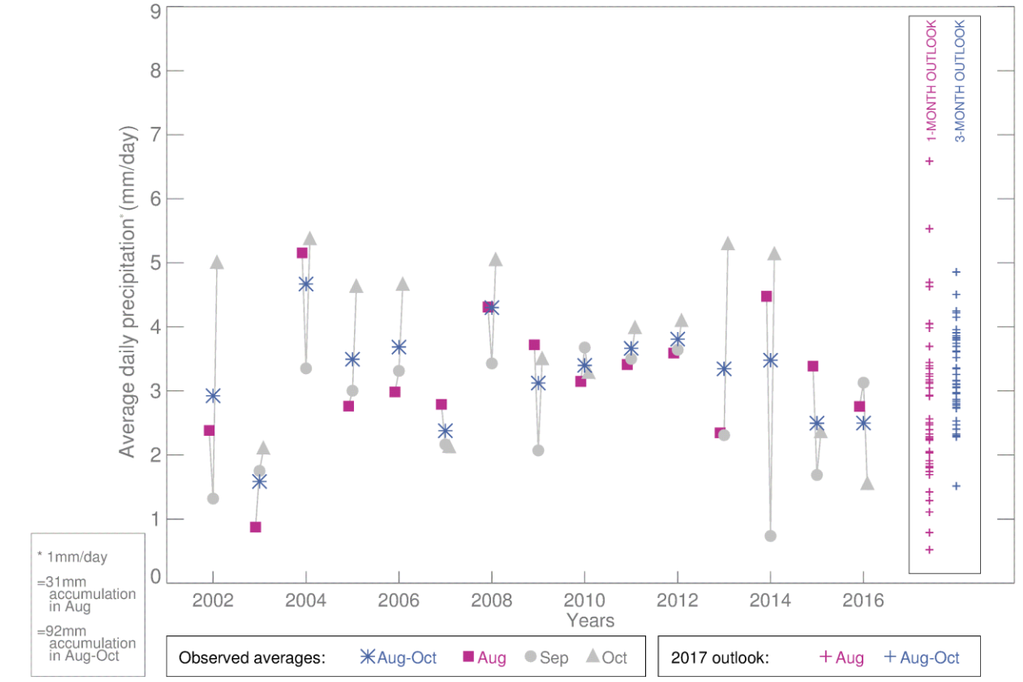


Fig P3


1-month and 3-month UK outlook for precipitation in the context of recent climatology: year-to-year and within-season variability
Average daily precipitation* (mm/day)
1-MONTH OUTLOOK
3-MONTH OUTLOOK
* 1mm/day =31mm accumulation in Aug =92mm accumulation in Aug-Oct
Years
Observed averages: Aug-Oct Aug Sep Oct
2017 outlook: Aug Aug-Oct

This Outlook provides an indication of possible temperature and rainfall conditions over the next 3 months. It is part of a suite of forecasts designed for contingency planners.

The Outlook should not be used in isolation but should be used with shorter-range and more detailed (30-day, 15-day and 1-to-5-day) forecasts and warnings available to the contingency planning community from the Met Office.